

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Anti-Religious Propaganda

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1. The entire production of precious metals in Rumania, about two tons of gold and eight tons of silver annually, is allegedly sent to the Soviet Union. It is believed that the Rumanian gold covers, in part, the expenses of the espionage and propaganda operations of the Cominform in the western countries.
2. The gold and silver mines of Rumania are in the Baia Mare and the Muntii Apuseni (Western Mountains) regions of Transylvania. The new Sovrometal Company requires the miners to work 12 hours a day instead of eight. In September 1950 more than 2,000 peasants of the mining areas were forcibly recruited for work in the mines.
3. In January 1951 the Education Corps of Rumania received orders from the Ministry of Education to start a more intensive anti-religion campaign, and to put themselves at the disposal of the "Company for spreading Culture and Science." At the same time it was decided that so-called "Centers of General Education" be opened in every village to counter the peasants' devotion to religion. Soviet propaganda material was sent to the schools and the teachers were ordered to use it. The "Company for spreading Culture and Science" had playing cards printed with caricatures of priests of various religions. Anti-religious names were also manufactured for children and sold in children's stores.
4. No calendars for the new year were available in Rumania until 6 January 1951, when Russian calendars appeared on the market. They were not bought because they did not show the Christian holidays, but only anniversaries of Communist leaders and events. Rumanian translations of the Russian calendars were put on sale later, and they too did not have the Christian holidays.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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